

CONTEMPORARY HISTORICAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION, Inc.



OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

Not all of the following state bills are laws at this time. They were recently introduced and are currently under consideration by the respective legislatures.

FYI – According to the Bureau of Transportation, 91% of long distance holiday travel is by personal vehicle. The average long-distance holiday trip for the Christmas/New Year’s holiday is 275 miles. AAA estimates that 115 million drivers will be on the roads between Christmas and New Years.

ARKANSAS

Gov. Hutchison says his top priority for next year is winning voter approval for a proposed constitutional amendment to make the state’s 0.5% sales tax for highways and road improvements.

ARIZONA

Phoenix will no longer use red light and speed-enforcement cameras at intersections starting in January.

A new east-west freeway has opened that will skirt the often-congested section of I-10 through downtown Phoenix. The 22-mile South Mountain Freeway opened on Dec. 18th.

CALIFORNIA

Officials plan to temporarily close, an iconic stretch of landslide-plagued Highway 1 on the Central Coast, this winter when forecasts of significant rain emerge. The Dept. of Transportation will give two-day notices before closures for the Mud Creek or Paul’s slide area.

California Highway Patrol reports 42 people were killed in auto accidents and 860 drivers were arrested for DUI during the Thanksgiving period.

Caltrans plans to add lanes to the highway 80 freeway and add lanes to the Yolo Causeway between Sacramento and Davis. One plan would add a lane to the causeway to be used by carpools and buses. One proposal would allow single drivers to use the express lane, but pay a toll for the use. No decision has been made but Caltrans is studying all of the proposals.

CONNECTICUT

State officials and local police are stepping up efforts to prevent jaywalking and other violations that endanger bicyclists and pedestrians.

COLORADO

State transportation officials have unveiled plans for a bus system to shuttle skiers and snowboarders from Denver to three resorts. This, they hope, will help to reduce traffic congestion on roads in the area.

HAWAII

A pilot program to use artificial turf on road median strips on Oahu has had mixed results since it began 3 years ago. Some spots have been damaged, but in one spot, it looks so realistic that a resident used a power mower to mow it, officials say.

IDAHO

The U.S. Census Bureau says the state won't share driver's license records with the agency as part of a Federal administration executive order to expand the use of federal, state and local administrative records.

State lawmakers say a law targeting uninsured drivers by suspending vehicle registration is expected to take effect, Jan. 1, 2020.

ILLINOIS

A crackdown began on Nov. 29th on illegal parking, especially in handicapped accessible spaces in shopping centers.

A tax on parking spots to help finance a \$45 billion construction plan has lawmakers taking a second look. The tax taking effect January 1, is 9% on spaces rented by the month or year. It is 6% for spaces rented hourly, daily or weekly.

INDIANA

The state's driver's manual will be translated into four languages- Arabic, Burmese, Mandarin and Chin to settle a federal lawsuit. Chin is a major ethnic group of Burma.

IOWA

After 11 years, work is nearly complete on an Interstate 29 expansion project near Sioux City.

LOUISIANA

The state park system has ended a requirement that guests must stay at least three nights during the weekday booking at its campgrounds and cabins.

MARYLAND

Effective Jan. 1, entrance fees at the Assateague Island National Seashore will increase by \$5 in most categories.

Surveillance cameras may be used in Rockville, to see if drivers are using their cellphones. If implemented, the proposal would create the first program of its kind in the country, but concerns have been raised about privacy.

MASSACHUSETTS

The state is using money from a nationwide settlement with VW to help electrify the state's transportation sector and reduce air pollution.

MINNESOTA

The state is on track to meet the implementation deadlines for replacing its troubled drivers and vehicle registration system known as MNLARS the state auditor says, but has found some minor risks to complete the project on time and on budget.

MISSISSIPPI

Residents of the city of McComb are protesting a large pothole in the Edgewood neighborhood by topping its yellow cone with tinsel, pinecones, leaves and holly branches to draw the city's attention. No results announced as of Dec. 6th.

MISSOURI

The city of Caruthersville reports that dozens of sinkholes, some are 12 feet deep, are sprouting up in the city in yards and on roads. Months of flooding along the Mississippi River are to blame for the problem as the city was built on a swamp, the mayor says.

NEVADA

A team of school motorcycle officers in Las Vegas is getting drivers attention. The unit dubbed the "Fab Five" is racking up traffic stops while providing commentary geared to a twitter account.

Police in Reno are expanding the use of technology by automatically reading license plates in an effort to reduce gun violence.

NEW JERSEY

State lawmakers have advanced legislation to permit immigrants who cannot prove they are in the country legally to obtain driver's licenses.

NEW YORK

A law allowing New Yorkers to get driver's licenses without having to prove they are in the U.S. legally weathered a second court challenge and will become effective 12/23/19.

NORTH CAROLINA

The state Dept. of Transportation says the new Southwest By-pass near Greenville opened on Nov. 28th, seven months ahead of schedule.

OHIO

Gov. DeWin's administration is planning to improve highway rest stops in the state with lodge style buildings, well-lit parking areas, dog parks and flat screen TVs showing weather conditions.

The Ohio Turnpike Authority say that they will provide free internet at their rest stop facilities.

OKLAHOMA

The state's highest court has admonished a county judge who failed to pay her taxes and a large number of parking tickets.

RHODE ISLAND

The state is behind in putting up gantries on highways for its truck tolling system. The delay may not bring in the projected \$25 million in the 2019 budget.

TENNESSEE

The state is moving forward with a plan to eliminate emissions testing in multiple counties and is preparing to ask the Feds to roll back regulations to make it possible.

VERMONT

Newport City will now allow snowmobiles to drive on several streets to reach the downtown area.

VIRGINIA

The Charlottesville Police Dept. is taking a Dodge Challenger out of service because of its similarity to the car used in a fatal attack in a 2017 white supremacist rally.

WASHINGTON

The Seattle City Council is proceeding with a new tax on Uber and Lyft to help pay for affordable housing and the delayed downtown streetcar system and give more support to ride-hailing drivers

On Nov. 27th, a judge blocked a \$30 car tab measure from taking effect in the state while cities and counties continue challenging its legality, citing “substantial concerns” that the initiative’s description on the ballot was misleading. November voters approved initiative 976, which caps most taxes paid through annual vehicle registration at \$30 and largely revokes the authority of state and local government to add new taxes and fees.

A jury awarded the state Dept. of Transportation \$57.2 million in damages over delays in the construction of a highway tunnel beneath downtown Seattle.

WISCONSIN

Gov. Evers has signed a bill that defines autocycles in the state and establishes registration fees for the vehicles. Autocycles are three-wheeled vehicles that seat one or two riders.

WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

Bad day for Tesla! At the Los Angeles auto show, Tesla CEO Elon Musk bragged about the unbreakable glass in the new Tesla pickup. He hit one of the side windows with a steel ball and the window shattered. They tried it again on the other side which spider cracked. Musk said the pickup would start at \$39,900, but a tri-motor, long-range vehicle will have a base price of \$69,900. It will have a battery range of 250 miles to 500 miles and will be able to tow 14,000 pounds. The pickup will be in production in 2021 for the cheapest model and 2022 for the tri-motor model. After the show, Tesla said they have received 200,000 preorders for the pickups.

In 2017, GM asked the National Highway Safety Administration to allow GM to deploy a limited number of self-driving vehicles on U.S. roads without steering wheels or other human controls. The Softbank Corp requested to deploy a limited number of low-speed, highly automated piloting systems without human control or steering wheels as delivery vehicles. Waymo has been using vehicles with no human driver in Arizona, but with steering wheels and employee watching feeds from the vehicles remote cameras. The National Highway Safety Administration says it will make a decision soon.

A gas station in Maryland was converted to an electric charging station, where electric vehicle owners can get a recharge, but pay a fee. The cost is \$10 to \$15 depending on the time required for the charge. New data shows that 2% of all new cars are electric.

London's transit authority has refused to renew Uber's license to operate, putting the ride-hailing company's future in the British capitol in doubt. Uber has a rocky history with London transit officials.

Fee increase! Lifetime passes to the national parks will not be honored at peak times under a new proposal by a Dept. of Interior Committee. The cost of lifetime Senior Passes for people 62 or older was raised from \$10 to \$80 in 2017. The Park Service sold 148,000 lifetime passes over the fiscal year that ended on September 30th.

Yellowstone's 2016 visitors study found that 30% of the visitors were ages 50 to 70. Many national parks are free, but 110 of them including biggies such as Zion and Yosemite charge entrance fees, typically between \$10 and \$30.

A city in the San Francisco Bay Area is testing an electric powered fire engine. No details on how long the test period will be. Some city officials are concerned about the cost of the vehicle.

Many cities in the southern states are removing or relocating statues related to the civil war.

A museum that hosts the largest vintage auto collection in North America plans to open a new building to display muscle cars. The \$5 million project at the Gilmore Car Museum would add more than 25,000 square feet of exhibit space. The museum is located in Hickory Corners, Michigan.

U.S. Attorney Matthew Schnieder reports corruption allegations against United Auto Worker brass at a time when rank-and-file members were living off strike pay on the picket lines was hard to stomach. Its a theme of greed he mentioned more than once during a sit-down in early December with reporters in the U.S. Attorney's office in Detroit.

GM, Ford, Tesla, Porsche and VW are among automakers poised to roll out new electric vehicles as competition heats up a segment that still represents fewer than 1 in 50 new-car sales. GM will close a plant on the border of Detroit and Hamtrack Michigan in Feb, and will retool it for a new life of electric vehicles to start production in 2021.

GM's Buick division will stop production of the Buick Regal in the U.S. soon, but will continue in China. Buick is now focusing on sales of it's lineup of SUVs.

Vehicle parts manufacturers have paid out more than \$23 million in settlement money after they were caught violating California's antitrust laws by artificially inflating prices, according to the California Attorney General's office. Several manufacturers were involved.

Faced with the utter silence of electric vehicles as opposed to engine noise from conventional vehicles, automakers are coming up with novel ways to give them their own distinctive cabin sounds. There are several different cabin sounds available from automakers. Each company has several systems available. Hyundai's Sonata equipped with the optional navigation systems will have nature sounds in 2020 models such as lively forest sounds, open-air café, calm sea waves and more.

London's Burbican Estates Beach Street will become the only street in the U.K. to allow only zero emission vehicles. Gas and diesel vehicles will be banned from using the street.

Larry Becker

23 December 2019

